

From: Raffael Cavallaro
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 12:16am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a concerned citizen writing to ask that you insist that any settlement be much tougher on Microsoft than the details of the proposed settlement currently circulating. As you know, Microsoft has already been found guilty of violations of anti-trust law, has already been found to be a monopoly, and these rulings have been sustained by the US Supreme Court. Such transgressions, especially where they damage the interests of consumers, as well as the interests of many high technology businesses, demand severe penalties.

Some have proposed requiring a forced revelation of the source code of the various Windows operating systems. Others suggest forcing Microsoft to release versions of Windows with no internet application software included, so that Microsoft's anti-competitive effect on that market can be rectified by allowing computer manufacturers to include non-Microsoft browser software on new machines. Both of these remedies would be just, in my opinion. But Microsoft is already trying to sell a pathetically weak remedy.

In particular, Microsoft's proposed settlement would cost them very little (estimated by Apple Inc. to be a little as 10 million dollars) while gaining Microsoft an even stronger foothold in the education market, one of the few markets that Microsoft does not yet dominate. Microsoft should be forced to pay cash (and a mere one billion dollars is not sufficient) to an independent non-profit group that would decide for itself what products to purchase for our nation's school children with the settlement money.

In addition, Microsoft is seeking to prevent any restrictions on their behavior from applying to non-profit groups. This would mean that Microsoft would be allowed to shut out government agencies, our nations colleges and universities, and Open Source software projects from interoperability with Windows. This is simply unacceptable. This language must be removed from any settlement.

Whatever remedies you and the states' Attorneys General demand, they must be tougher than a mere Consent Decree. Remember, we are here in the first place because the original Consent Decree signed by Microsoft was too weak to stop their monopolistic and illegal practices. Another weak Consent Decree will guarantee that the future of computing, indeed, the future of high technology, will be not merely dominated, but completely controlled by a single predatory monopoly. The victims of this monopoly will undoubtedly be both consumers and businesses, indeed, all the

people of the United States.

It is no exaggeration to say that the future of the 21st century is in your hands. Please don't give away the potential benefits of such a powerful technology to a single, greedy, predatory monopoly. Please demand a tougher settlement. I, the voters, and your posterity will surely thank you.

Sincerely,

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